

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 are pending in the application. Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Publication No. 2003/0205246 to Christman et al. ("Christman") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0223250 to Ballen et al. ("Ballen").

Claim 5 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Publication No. 2003/0205246 to Christman et al. ("Christman") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0223250 to Ballen et al. ("Ballen").

Christman describes an in-sink dishwasher with a hinged lid 32. See Christman, paragraph [0036]. The dishwasher includes a user interface 222 that includes indicators to display information to the user, such as lights. See Christman, paragraph [0075]. The lid 32 is shown as covering the user interface 222. See Christman, Fig. 3.

Ballen describes a light guide 10 disposed in a recessed housing 12. See Ballen, paragraph [0020]. The light guide 10 is shown incorporated in a cosmetic compact 70 around a mirror. See Ballen, paragraph [0031] and Fig. 7.

Independent claim 5 of the present application has now been amended so as to recite an illumination device that reflects light "so as to provide an illuminating ring visible at the front of the housing in the gap area when the door is in the closed position." Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification, for example, at paragraph [0019] and [0022] and in Fig. 2.

It is respectfully submitted that each of Christman and Ballen fails to teach or suggest a laundry appliance including an illumination device that provides "an illuminating ring visible at the front of the housing in the gap area when the door is in the closed position," as now recited in claim 5, nor would this feature have been obvious in view of a combination of Christman and Ballen. In contrast, Christman describes an in-sink dishwasher with a hinged lid 32 that covers a user interface

222 which may include lights as information indicators. See Christman, paragraph [0075] and Fig. 2. The Office Action acknowledges that Christman does not disclose an illuminating ring. See Detailed Action, page 3, lines 6-12. With respect to Ballen, that reference merely describes a light guide disposed in a recessed housing. See Ballen, paragraph [0020]. There is no teaching or suggestion in either of Christman or Ballen, nor would there be any reason, to dispose the indicators of Christman's user interface 222 or the light guide of Ballen so as to provide an illuminating ring that is visible at the front of the housing of an appliance when the door is in a closed position, as recited in independent claim 5.

Further, claim 5 also recites a laundry appliance with a stamped section "circumferentially surrounding a loading opening to a rotatably mounted drum of the appliance." It is respectfully submitted that each of Christman and Ballen fail to teach or suggest "a loading opening to a rotatably mounted drum," as recited in claim 5. Moreover, there would be no reason to add a loading opening to a rotatably mounted drum to either of Christman or Ballen. Christman is related to a dishwasher. It is respectfully that there would be no reason to include a rotatable drum in a dishwasher since dishes are fragile and would likely break if disposed in a rotating drum. With respect to Ballen, that reference only describes a light guide included in a cosmetic compact 70 around a mirror. See Ballen, paragraph [0031] and Fig. 7. It is respectfully submitted that there would be no reason to add a rotatably mounted drum to the cosmetic compact of Ballen.

Because each of Christman and Ballen fail to teach or suggest the above recited features of independent claim 5, and because there would be no reason for a person of ordinary skill in the art to include these features to a combination of these references, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Christman and Ballen, to the extent proper, could not render claim 5 or its dependent claims 6-10 obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Christman in view of Ballen is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/599,315
Amendment dated August 13, 2009
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2009

Docket No.: 20794/0205386-US0


CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, including any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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